

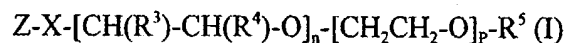
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-13. (Canceled)

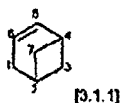
14. (New) A process for degreasing a hard metal surface, comprising the step of using an aqueous medium comprising at least one compound employed in a concentration of from 0.01 to 10 g/l, having the following formula (I):



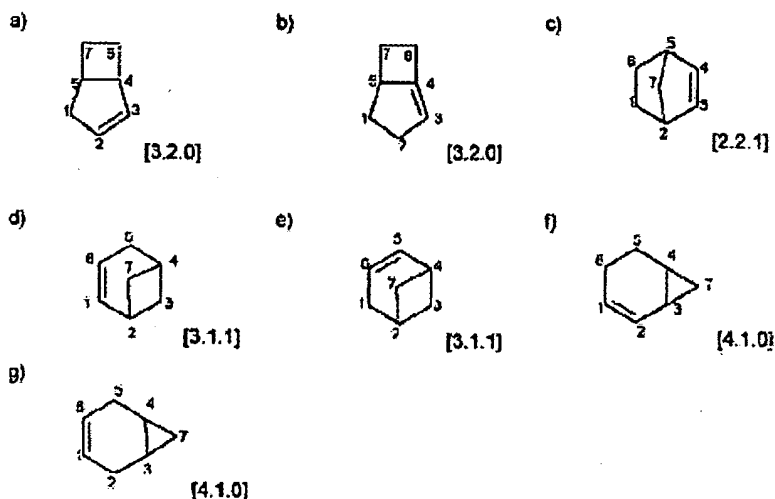
wherein:

- Z represents

a group having the following formula:



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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT



Wherein:

X represents  $-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}-$ ,

$\text{R}^3$  and  $\text{R}^4$ , which are identical or different, represent hydrogen or a methyl group, provided that at least one of groups  $\text{R}^3$  or  $\text{R}^4$  is other than hydrogen,

$\text{R}^5$  represents hydrogen,

n is an integer or a fractional number from 3 to 5 inclusive, and

p is an integer or a fractional number from 6 to 10, limits excluded.

15. (New) A process according to claim 14, wherein n is equal to 3.

16. (New) A process according to claim 14, wherein p is from 6.2 to 7, limits included.

17. (New) A process according to claim 16, wherein p is from 6.3 to 7, limits included.

18. (New) A process according to claim 17, wherein n is from 4 to 5.

19. (New) A process according to claim 14, wherein p is from 7 inclusive to 10 exclusive.

20. (New) A process according to claim 19, wherein p is from 8 inclusive to 10 exclusive.

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

21. (New) A process according to claim 14, wherein the hard surface is a metal plate, and the concentration of compound is from 0.01 to 5 g/l.

22. (New) A process according to claim 14, the hard surface is a platform, and the concentration of compound is in the range from 0.01 to 10 g/l.